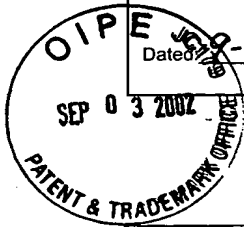


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EU110396986US, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.



Dated: 8-3-02

Signature: *Neva M. Dare*  
(Neva M. Dare)

Docket No.: HO-P02403US0  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Jason Hodge, et al.

Application No.: 10/070,526

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: March 6, 2002

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: PET FOOD PRODUCT AND PROCESS FOR  
MANUFACTURING SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned.

A copy of each reference on PTO/SB/08 is attached.

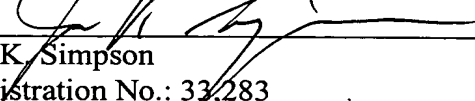
While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

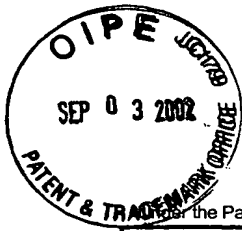
In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. P02403US0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9-3-02

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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002.OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Application Number</b>	10/070,526
				<b>Filing Date</b>	March 6, 2002
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Jason Hodge
				<b>Art Unit</b>	N/A
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	Not Yet Assigned
<b>Sheet</b>	1	of	1	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	HO-P02403US0

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	4,267,195-	05-12-1981	Boudreau et al.	
	AB	4,282,254-	08-04-1981	Franzen et al.	
	AC	4,296,132-	10-20-1981	Lazarus et al.	
	AD	4,804,549-	02-14-1989	Howley et al.	
	AE	5,643,623-	07-01-1997	Schmitz et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	BA	IB-97/29763-	08-21-1997	The Procter & Gamble Company		
	BB	IB-99/47000-	09-23-1999	Kal Kan Foods, Inc.		

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.